

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

27. **Agriculture.**—Copies of Dr. Kunjan Pillai's report for 1992 will, as usual, be placed in your hands from which you will be able to obtain detailed information regarding the working of the Agricultural Department during the year. The Manager of the Silk farm at Trivandrum was deputed to Upper India to study the latest methods of sericulture. Of the twelve pupils who attended the Silk school at Nantankode opened by the Salvation Army in 1991, seven were successful in the final examination, and five of them have started the industry in their native villages. To encourage them in their new enterprise, Government have sanctioned them a monthly grant of Rs. 5 each for one year and an initial grant of Rs. 30 each for the purchase of appliances. The possibility of cultivating tapioca on poor laterite soils under the application of cattle manure and green leaf and the advantage of rotating tapioca on such soils with hill-paddy, horse-gram and banana, were successfully demonstrated. Substantial progress was made in the soil survey of the State and a bulletin was published describing the general characteristics of the different kinds of soils. The analysis of green leaf manures was completed and a leaflet was issued on the subject. The number of leaflets issued by the department till the close of 1992 was 78. Arrangements have been made for the reprinting of these leaflets in one convenient volume for sale to the public at a nominal price. With a view to impart some knowledge in Agriculture to the children of the cultivating classes, two night schools were opened in the Experimental farms at Trivandrum and Nagercoil and 36 pupils are attending these schools. Since the close of 1992, revised rules for the treatment of animals in the Government Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries have been issued, under which no fees need be paid for the treatment of out-patient animals, while only nominal fees at certain prescribed rates will be charged for in-patients.

28. **Fisheries.**—Two sardine nets of a type not commonly used in the State were demonstrated at Trivandrum and Alleppey with successful results. With a view to develop deep sea fishing, it is proposed to send a few fishermen to Tanur for training at Government cost. The fish-curing yard at Muttam, in which the number of operations carried on rose from 196 in 1891 to 1,036 in 1992, has, since the close of the year, been transferred from the Excise to the Fisheries Department. Government have also sanctioned the opening of another fish-curing yard and a fish-oil factory at Alleppey. For the purpose of enabling the department to study the life-history and habits of fresh water and backwater fishes, sanction has been accorded to the opening of two fish-breeding farms at Quilon. A night school in the Vaikam taluk for imparting general as well as professional instruction to the children of the Vala community has also been sanctioned. The fishery rules brought into operation in 1891 have been revised so as to afford greater relief to fishermen. The activities of this growing department are being carefully watched.

29. **Industries.**—The Industrial Survey of the State to which I made reference last year was begun on the 1st Makaram, 1992. As the period of one year for which Dr. Barker was placed on special duty for the purpose was found insufficient, that period has since been extended by another year, *i. e.*, till the 1st Makaram 1994. During the first year, Dr. Barker was able to survey 18 taluks, in addition to the towns of Trivandrum and Kottayam. The method of enquiry was to hold industrial conferences of the leading citizens and ryots and to organise industrial development committees of three members each for every *pakuthi*. These committees were asked to fill up printed enquiry forms, the entries made by them being subsequently verified by the Special Officer. Dr. Barker is now engaged in the preparation of two special reports, one a talukwar report explaining the economic and industrial conditions of the several *pakuthies*, and the other a report on each industry taken separately. Portions of these reports have already been received by the Government. Popular interest in industrial questions is being evoked by means of personal interviews and public lectures. Bulletins on industrial subjects are being published from time to time and their Vernacular translations distributed broadcast. Government have recently granted the right of collecting conch shells to Mr. L. A. Netto of Valiathura for a period of 20 years on the stipulation that Mr. Netto